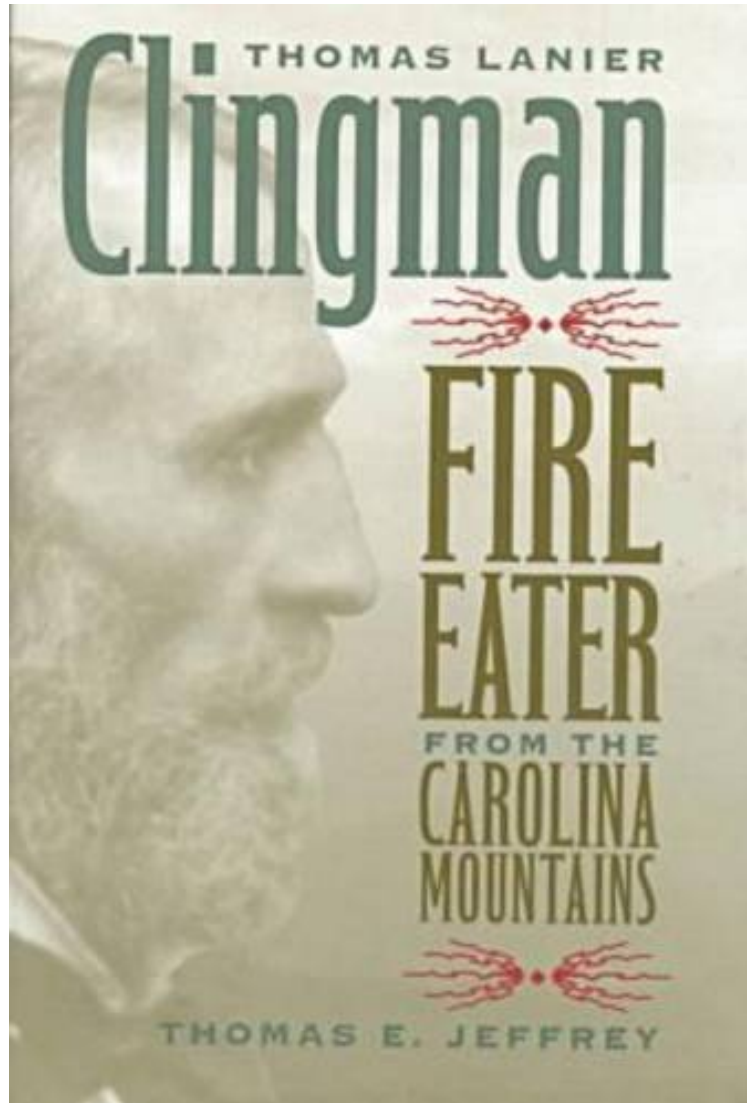


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Thomas Lanier Clingman: Fire Eater from the Carolina Mountains

Thomas Jeffrey

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Thomas Jeffrey : Thomas Lanier Clingman: Fire Eater from the Carolina Mountains before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thomas Lanier Clingman: Fire Eater from the Carolina Mountains:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. General Clingman By William White A great history lesson from Congressman, Senator, Inventor and General in the Confederate Army that Clingmans Dome gets its name from in North Carolina. The Great Smokey Mountains. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A well-researched, very enjoyable read By Richard L. Hanson The author has style. From the hook that introduced me to general Clingman

as a bit dotty yet dignified old crank, I was immersed in the book. I collect biographies and memoirs of Civil War Generals, and to be frank, Clingman's Civil War military service was negligible. The man was many faceted though. An inventor, an explorer, a mineralogist, a politician and a very persuasive speaker, Thomas Clingman's intelligence and drive were offset by character flaws which prevented him from achieving lasting greatness. His flip-flops and grasping opportunism in pursuit on a Congressional and then a Senate seat reminded me of the Clintons. Couple this with a massive ego and it's easy to understand why he made as many enemies as friends. Still, he was a tireless booster for Western North Carolina. A fascinating man. A fascinating read. I highly recommend this volume, not just for Civil War buffs but for anyone who enjoys an engaging biography.

Thomas Lanier Clingman: Fire Eater from the Carolina Mountains is the first book-length biography of one of the most important, colorful, and controversial figures in nineteenth-century American life. A man of enormous intellect and intense ambition whose ultimate goal was nothing less than the presidency, Clingman was a lawyer, entrepreneur, Civil War general, inventor, amateur scientist, explorer, and, as a U.S. congressman and senator, one of the foremost champions of southern rights. Thomas E. Jeffrey's explanation of how a leading advocate of this cause could thrive within an environment where slavery was only a marginal institution provides fresh insights into the political culture of southern Appalachia, the character of the southern rights movement, and the coming of the Civil War.

A superb biography of one of the pivotal figures in southern antebellum politics. (John Inscoe author of *Mountain Masters: Slavery and the Sectional Crisis in Western North Carolina*) This biography is based on prodigious research, particularly in private collections, newspapers, and Clingman's own writings. (Max Williams editor of *The Papers of William Alexander Graham*) About the Author Thomas E. Jeffrey is associate director of the Thomas A. Edison Papers, a project jointly sponsored by Rutgers University and the National Park Service's Edison National Historic Site. He is the author of "State Parties and National Politics: North Carolina, 1815-1861" (Georgia).